

Message Text

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ACTION CPR-01

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P 230852Z SEP 76

FM AMEMBASSY NDJAMENA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2353

C O N F I D E N T I A L NDJAMENA 2955

STADIS//////////

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PDIP, (TOURA GABA, PIERRE)

SUBJECT: GOC REQUESTS AGREEMENT FOR NEW AMBASSADOR TO US

1. BY FOREIGN MINISTRY NOTE NO. 3700 OF SEPTEMBER 22, THE MINISTRY HAS REQUESTED THE AGREEMENT OF THE USG FOR PIERRE TOURA GABA AS GOC AMBASSADOR TO THE UNITED STATES.

2. BIOGRAPHIC INFORMATION AS APPENDED TO NOTE IS AS FOLLOWS:

A. BORN DECEMBER 28, 1920, AT MAIBIYAN (MOYEN-CHARI), CHAD.
TEACHER.

B. HONORS: GRAND OFFICER OF THE NATIONAL ORDER OF CHAD; GRAND CROSS OF MERIT OF FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY; COMMANDER OF LEGION OF HONOR; COMMANDER OF NATIONAL ORDER OF CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC; AND COMMANDER OF THE NATIONAL ORDER OF THE NIGER.

C. CAREER: 1939-1947 - TEACHER IN SEVERAL SCHOLLS; DECEMBER 1946 TO MARCH 1962 - ELECTED CONTINUOUSLY TO THE REPRESENTATIVE COUNCIL OF CHAD WHICH
LATER THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF
CHAD; MAY 14, 1959 - MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE; APRIL, 1959 - MINISTER OF PUBLIC WORKS AND COMMUNICATIONS; AUGUST 1960 - MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS; MARCH 1961 - RESIGNATION OF THE GOVERNMENT; AUGUST 1961 - MINISTER OF NATIONAL EDUCATION;
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MARCH 1962 - MINISTER OF PUBLIC WORKS AND COMMUNICATIONS;

JULY 1962 - NO LONGER PART OF THE GOVERNMENT; JUNE 1966 TO DECEMBER 1973 - CHADIAN AMBASSADOR TO FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY; JUNE 1975 - DIPLOMATIC COUNSELOR TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SUPREME MILITARY COUNCIL.

3. COMMENT: IT MAY WELL BE THAT THE GOC HAS TAKEN THE UNUSUAL STEP OF REQUESTING THIS AGREEMENT THROUGH THE AMERICAN EMBASSY IN N'DJAMENA RATHER THAN THROUGH THE CHADIAN EMBASSY IN WASHINGTON IN ORDER TO AVOID INFORMING THE CURRENT CHADIAN AMBASSADOR IN WASHINGTON OF ITS DECISION UNTIL THE LAST POSSIBLE MOMENT. EMBASSY SUGGESTS THAT REQUEST FOR AGREEMENT THEREFORE NOT BE DISCUSSED AT MOMENT WITH AMBASSADOR ALINGUE. TOURA GABA IS ONE OF THE OLDER GENERATION OF CHADIAN POLITICAL FIGURES, ACTIVE BEFORE INDEPENDENCE, AND FOR SOME TIME A SERIOUS RIVAL OF FORMER PRESIDENT TOMBALBAYE FOR TOP LEADERSHIP. THERE IS EXTENSIVE BIOGRAPHIC INFORMATION ON TOURA GABA AVAILABLE IN WASHINGTON, BUT, BRIEFLY, AFTER YEARS OF HOUSE ARREST IN A REMOTE REGION OF CHAD (1962-1965) HE WAS PARDONED FOR HIS ALLEGED ACTIVITIES AGAINST TOMBALBAYE AND NAMED AMBASSADOR TO THE FRG IN 1966. HE RESIGNED AT THE END OF 1973, SAYING PUBLICLY THAT HE "REFUSED TO SUPPORT AND REFUSED TO ANSWER FOR THE DISASTROUS POLICY OF PRESIDENT TOMBALBAYE." HE WROTE AND DISTRIBUTED BY MAIL IN CHAD (FROM BELGIUM) A DETAILED ATTACK AGAINST TOMBALBAYE REGIME ENTITLED "NO TO TOMBALBAYE." TOMBALBAYE THEREUPON MOUNTED CONSIDERABLE AND VITUPERATIVE LOCAL CAMPAIGN AGAINST TOURA GABA IN PRESS, RADIO, AND NATIONAL ASSEMBLY. AFTER TOURA GABA'S RESIGNATION, HE IS BELIEVED TO HAVE SETTLED IN FRANCE. FOLLOWING THE APRIL 13, 1975, MILITARY COUP D'ETAT AND ASSASSINATION OF PRESIDENT TOMBALBAYE, TOURA GABA RETURNED TO CHAD, REPORTEDLY AFTER SOME NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE NEW MILITARY REGIME. THERE WERE AT THAT TIME UNVERIFIED RUMORS THAT TOUP GABA HAD ACCESS TO CONSIDERABLE SUMS OF GOC FUNDS DEPOSITED IN SWITZERLAND (WHERE HE ALSO HAD BEEN ACCREDITED), AND THAT HE TURNED THESE FUNDS OVER TO THE NEW GOVERNMENT. WITH THE FORMATION OF THE FIRST PROVISIONAL GOUVERNMENT IN JUNE 1975, TOURA GABA BECAME DIPLOMATIC COUNSELOR TO SMC PRESIDENT MALLOUM. HE HAS BEEN VISIBLE ON ALL OFFICIAL OCCASIONS, AND HAS MADE A POINT OF ACCEPTING SOCIAL INVITATIONS BOTH FROM FORMER AMBASSADOR LITTLE AND THE CHARGE SINCE HIS APPOINTMENT, AS HE HAD DONE WITH PREVIOUS AMBASSADORS AND EMBASSY OFFICERS BEFORE BEING NAMED AMBASSADOR TO THE FRG. HIS POLITICAL BASE WAS EFFECTIVELY DESTROYED BY TOMBALBAYE, AND THE EMBASSY HAS HAD NO CONFIDENTIAL

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INDICATION THAT HE HAS HAD HIGH POLITICAL ASPIRATIONS SINCE HIS RETURN

TO CHAD, ALTHOUGH HE REMAINS AN AMBITIOUS MAN. HE IS ABLE AND SELF-CONFIDENT, WELL-READ AND ARTICULATE IN FRENCH, AND SPEAKS GOOD GERMAN AND SERVICEABLE ENGLISH IN ADDITION TO HIS NATIVE SARH. HE IS, IN SHORT, ONE OF THE MOST IMPRESSIVE OF CHAD'S OLDER ELITE.

4. ACTION REQUESTED: EMBASSY SUGGESTS THAT USG REPLY BE
MADE WITHIN SAME OR BRIEFER TIME FRAME THAN THAT REQUIRED BY
GOC FOR AGREEMENT FOR AMBASSADOR-DESIGNATE BRADFORD, I.E.,
THREE WEEKS. EMBASSY FURTHER SUGGESTS IF NO OBJECTION PRECEIVED
THAT EMBASSY BE AUTHORIZED CONVEY RESPONSE TO GOC AND THAT
DEPARTMENT PROVIDE STANDARD TEXT. DWYER

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